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a public telephone system coupling said plurality of telephones to said access system for interactive communication with said access system through one or more telephone switch offices such that said DTMF signals can be used to navigate among said web pages to a selected web page for a plurality of users of said plurality of telephones after a user of a touch-tone telephone is granted permission to use such functionality;

a security system requiring at least a password to grant said user permission;
and

a text-to-speech system associated with said access system for reading at least some of said text portions to at least one of said plurality of users of said selected web page.

7. (thrice amended) A computer implemented process for obtaining web page information over a TCP/IP network comprising:

implementing a connection of a plurality of touch-tone telephone users via a public telephone system including at least one telephone switch office to an access system that is coupled to a TCP/IP network;

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requiring at least a password to grant a user of a touch tone telephone permission utilize the functionality of said access system;

detecting a selection of navigation commands by DTMF signals made by said telephone users to access web pages accessible over said TCP/IP network; and

navigating over said TCP/IP network to said web pages in response to said navigation command, resulting in verbal communication of at least some information derivable from said web pages to said plurality of telephone users over said touch-tone telephones.

13. (twice amended) A voice web browser comprising:

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D connection means including a public telephone system including at least one telephone switch office for implementing connections of a plurality of touch-tone telephone users to an access system that is coupled to a TCP/IP network;

means requiring at least a password to grant a user of a touch tone telephone permission utilize the functionality of said access system;

means for detecting a selection of navigation commands in the form of a DTMF signal by said telephone users to access web pages accessible over said TCP/IP network; and

means for navigating over said TCP/IP network to said web pages in response to said navigation commands, resulting in a verbal communication of at least some information derivable from said web pages to said plurality of telephone users.

17. (amended) A method for retrieving e-mail that was sent over a TCP/IP network comprising:

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D calling from a user touch-tone telephone via a public telephone system including at least one telephone switch office to an access computer coupled to a TCP/IP network;

providing at least one of a user identification and a password to said access computer by at least one of user ID, voice communication, and DTMF signals;

retrieving e-mail via said access computer that was sent over said TCP/IP network and addressed to said user; and

reading said e-mail to said user of said user telephone utilizing a text-to-speech system.

20. (twice amended) A system for retrieving e-mail that was sent over a TCP/IP network comprising:

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A an access computer means coupled to a TCP/IP network, said access computer means being accessible by a user via a user touch-tone telephone which communicates with said access computer means via a public telephone system including at least one telephone switch office;

DTMF signals for providing at least one of user identification and a password to said access computer means;

means for retrieving e-mail via said access computer means that was sent over said TCP/IP network and addressed to said user; and

means for reading said e-mail to said user of said user telephone.